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" (*b*) & (*c*) A statement[a] furnishing the information required is laid on the table of the House."

Sri K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" May I know whether the amount allotted for the year 1954–55 has been spent in full or still remains to be spent?"

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" It has already been spent."

Ban on meetings, etc., in Ponnani taluk in January 1955

* 2332 *Q.*—Sri E. T. KUNHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any order was issued by the Government banning or imposing restrictions on the holding of meetings and the taking out of processions in 21 villages of Ponnani taluk under the jurisdiction of Chalisseri Police from 15th January 1955 onwards for two weeks; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) The Muslim League and the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh of Pattambi decided to hold their party conferences on 14th January 1955 at Pattambi. Both parties wanted to hold their meetings in the same place—the Pattambi river-bed.

There was information that the relations between the two parties were strained and the Revenue Divisional Officer, Malappuram, was, therefore, of the opinion that any assembly or procession by the members of either party, if uncontrolled, would lead to disturbances of the public peace. In the circumstances the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Palghat, promulgated an order under section 30 (2) of the Police Act, 1861, prohibiting the taking out of any procession or the convening of any assembly except with a licence within the limits of the Pattambi Police station and also of the adjoining Chalisseri Police station, for a period of fifteen days from 13th January 1955."

Sri P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" What were the conditions which warranted the promulgation of such an order? Is it not a fact that meetings were scheduled to be held to congratulate the District Board Member who was elected from that constituency and who happened to be a Communist and that only to prevent such meetings that order was promulgated?"

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not know how the question of congratulating the District Board Member who had been elected comes into the picture. According to the information available to me, this order was passed

[a] Printed as Appendix on page 1016–1018 infra.

because two parties wanted to hold conferences at the same time and in the same place. Since a breach of the peace was thereby apprehended, this order was passed.''

SRI E. T. KUNHAN :—" പട്ടാമ്പി പോലീസ് സ്റ്റേഷന്റെ പരിധിയിൽ രാഷ്ട്രീയ സ്വയംസേവക സംഘവും മുസ്ലീം ലീഗും ഒരേ സ്ഥലത്തു ഒരേ സമയത്തു യോഗം കൂടാൻ തീരുമാനിച്ചതു മൂലം കുഴപ്പം ഉണ്ടായതുകൊണ്ടാണ് നിരോധന ഉത്തരവു പുറപ്പെടുവിച്ചതെന്ന് ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മന്ത്രി പറഞ്ഞു. വള്ളുവനാട്ടു താലൂക്കിലെ പട്ടാമ്പിയിൽ കുഴപ്പം ഉണ്ടായാൽ പൊന്നാനി താലൂക്കിലെ തൃത്താല ഫർക്കയിൽ നിരോധനം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ട ആവശ്യം എന്തായിരുന്നുവെന്നു പറയുമോ ?"

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (translation) :—" The Hon. Minister in his answer was stating that it was due to certain alleged incident in Pattambi that an order was promulgated. Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that Pattambi is in Walluvanad taluk and that Chalisseri is in Ponnani taluk and not in Walluvanad taluk? If so, may I know why an order was promulgated in Ponnani taluk when there was trouble in Walluvanad taluk? ''

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The order was promulgated with reference to the jurisdiction of the Pattambi Police station and also the adjoining Police station. It was with reference to the adjoining areas because evidently, the Police felt that they might perhaps hold the conferences in the adjoining area. So, in order to prevent any breach of the peace by these two organizations holding conferences or meetings or conducting processions at the same time, this order was passed.''

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" If I remember aright, the fact is that the Muslim League's meeting was held there and there was no ban on the holding of the meeting except on taking out processions and that too was done with the consent of all parties concerned including the Police and the Revenue Divisional Officer. May I know whether the Hon. Minister refers to any other meeting which was banned in Pattambi? ''

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It was not an absolute ban. The order only said that if they wanted to have any meeting or take out a procession, they should take a licence. So, it was only controlling of assemblies and processions and there was no absolute ban.''

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" Even granting for the sake of argument that there was justification for promulgating this order in the adjacent taluk of Ponnani, why should the Police refuse permission for holding a meeting which was intended only to congratulate a member when there was no trouble apprehended in that area? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The question relates only to the issue of the order. Whether permission for holding a meeting was sought and whether it was refused has not been stated in the question. If there is any such thing, a separate question may be given notice of.''

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SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" It might be that the bed of the Bharatha river was very convenient and there was likelihood of two meetings to be held and they were banned. May I know why in the Chalisseri area which was eight to ten miles away in the interior there should be a ban on holding of meetings? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not have the information here and I do not know the locality also. Evidently the Police thought that there should be a ban in the area, and also the adjoining area so that no attempt might be made to hold conferences or meetings in the adjoining area. After all, the order has stated that assemblies may be held and processions taken out but after taking out a licence."

Appointment of Economic Investigators

* 2333 *Q.*—SRI C. KANDASAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of persons appointed as Economic Investigators under the Director of Statistics in November 1954;

(*b*) if so, the method adopted in making the appointment; and

(*c*) the service conditions of the posts?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Nine Economic Investigators were appointed in November 1954 temporarily for a period of one year for work relating to collection of statistics relating to handloom industry.

" (*b*) Selection was made from among the applications received in the Department of Statistics. As the scheme of collection of statistics relating to handloom industry is dealt with by the Department of Industries, Labour and Co-operation, the selection of candidates was finalised after a discussion with the Secretary of the Department by the Director of Statistics. The list of candidates selected was also approved by the Government.

" (*c*) The posts of these Economic Investigators are temporary. The scale of pay attached to the post is Rs. 150—5—200 per mensem. A candidate for appointment to the post must possess a degree in Economics, Statistics, Commerce or Mathematics as the main subject, of the Madras, Andhra or Annamalai University and must not have completed 40 years of age on the 1st July of the year in which the selection is made. A person appointed to the post of Economic Investigator shall be on probation for a total period of two years on duty within a continuous period of three years."

9-50 a.m. SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" May I know whether notices were published calling for applications and direct recruitment was made in the case of these posts? "